

A Portrayal of Digital Humanity in Quora Digital Platform through Speech Acts Analysis

Penggambaran Kemanusiaan Digital dalam Platform Digital Quora melalui Analisis Tindak Tutur

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Abstract

Quora is an emerging digital platform that provides a global virtual space for the sharing and inquiry of various topics occurring worldwide. One prevalent discussion topic on Quora is depression. An increasing number of individuals are expressing their experiences with depression on Quora in hopes of receiving responses from others. This research aims to investigate the linguistic features of discussions surrounding depression on Quora through a pragmatic lens, employing speech act analysis. The study focuses on the functions and strategies of speech acts utilized to convey matters related to depression on this platform. Data were collected from Quora's depression topic, specifically from the most recent inquiries. From a total of 67 data points gathered, 20 utterances were selected as the research data for analysis, based on their relevance to the topic of depression. These 20 data points represent a diverse array of contributions from individuals, including personal accounts, medical professionals, scientists, psychologists, and other health experts, thereby reflecting the broader discourse on depression within the Quora community. The research findings indicate that individuals tend to exhibit empathy on digital platforms, particularly on Quora. It was determined that the most commonly employed speech act functions in discussions related to depression on Quora, in order of frequency, are questioning, expressing, and directing. Furthermore, the explicit strategy was predominantly utilized to articulate feelings of depression and intention, employing both direct and indirect approaches. Ultimately, this research suggests that Quora may serve as a valuable tool for examining the symptoms of depression within the digital society.

Key words: *depression; digital humanity; mental health awareness; pragmatics; speech acts*

Abstrak

Quora merupakan salah satu platform digital yang sedang berkembang, menawarkan ruang virtual global untuk berbagi dan mempertanyakan topik apa pun yang terjadi di seluruh dunia. Salah satu topik diskusi di Quora adalah tentang depresi. Saat ini, semakin banyak orang yang mengungkapkan depresi mereka di Quora hanya untuk mendapatkan tanggapan dari orang lain. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki penggunaan bahasa dalam topik depresi Quora melalui perspektif pragmatik dan menggunakan analisis tindak tutur. Penelitian ini berfokus pada fungsi dan strategi tindak tutur dalam menyampaikan masalah depresi di platform Quora. Data diambil dari topik depresi Quora dan dipilih menjadi pertanyaan teratas terkini. Data dikumpulkan dari platform Quora, khususnya dari topik diskusi depresi. Dari 67 data yang dikumpulkan, dipilih menjadi 20 ucapan yang digunakan sebagai data penelitian untuk dianalisis. Pengecualian didasarkan pada akun yang menyampaikan masalah depresi. 47 data yang dikecualikan diartikulasikan oleh dokter, ilmuwan, psikolog, dan pakar kesehatan lainnya dan karenanya mereka dibenarkan karena tidak menyampaikan depresi alih-alih hanya memberi tahu pembaca cara mengatasi depresi. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa orang cenderung menunjukkan sisi kemanusiaannya di platform digital, khususnya Quora dalam kasus ini. Hal ini dapat disimpulkan dari fungsi tindak tutur yang umum digunakan dalam topik depresi Quora yaitu berurutan, bertanya, ekspresif, dan direktif. Sementara itu, strategi eksplisit lebih dominan untuk mengekspresikan depresi dan maksudnya, bervariasi baik secara langsung maupun tidak langsung. Pada akhirnya, hal ini juga menyiratkan bahwa Quora dapat digunakan sebagai alat untuk mengkaji gejala depresi di kalangan masyarakat digital.

Kata kunci: *depresi; kemanusiaan digital; kesehatan mental; pragmatik; tindak tutur*

INTRODUCTION

This research was triggered by the phenomenon of language use in varied social media platforms in conveying or discussing depression matters, particularly in Quora. Regarding utterances and the digital media, a research about irony in adolescence was conducted by Aguert et al. (2016), revealing that adolescence produced more ironic utterances in digital media rather than in face-to-face. Irony markers identification was also investigated by comparing the use in computer-mediated communication (CMC) or digital media and face-to-face (FTF) context. The research that was conducted by Ellis (2022) found that there were more irony markers used in CMC rather than in FTF contexts. Further, Harvey (2012) conducted a study dealing with the adolescent's online mental health. It found that there are two kinds of utterances expressing depression: "I am depressed" and "I have depression". The research was corpus-based study. Armstrong et al. (2023) reported through their research that they found 441 suicide news articles in Chhattisgarh during the period of February and July of 2019. It indicates that depression is happening everywhere across the world caused by varied factors. At last, a study conducted by Yoga and Roselani (2024) revealed how expressive speech acts could reveal the issues on digital humanity reflected by an Instagram account, @gemmacorrell that concerned in campaigning mental issues in America. The comments found across the content showed a social bound and support among mental illness survivors that tended to disappear in reality.

Moreover, to provide a comprehensive context and point of view, there have been relevant research to review. Aarts, Peek, and Wouters (2015) and Wiwatkunupakarn et al. (2022) through their research revealed that social network sites were quite used to respond to depression and loneliness in lower levels. Griffith et al. (2021) through their research, it is found that in another form of digital media, Instagram, artists were eager to promote mental health even wider. Kim et al. (2021) found that social media can be used as tools for screening depressed and non-depressed people. Hence, social media are valid tools to identify depression. Potential psychological aspects involved in the relationship between Instagram use and indicators of mental health had also been investigated by Faelens et al. (2021). Picardo et al. (2020) found that in Instagram, there was a quite large number of contents concerning self-harm risk although it was only one assessed to be related to actual suicidal act. It means that Instagram is commonly used to express unpleasant feelings of its users. In other research, it was reported by Brown et al. (2019) that 80% of their research participants had seen instances of active suicidal ideation on Instagram utilizing derogatory emotional terms. The aforementioned research showed that discourses reflecting depression and anxiety are commonly found on digital platforms and social media. In this case, the previous studies tended only to describe the depression conveyed in digital media platforms. This was the gap that the authors intended to fill, which is to investigate how current people were likely to post and share depression over social media rather than in reality.

The depression was commonly displayed on social media and Quora was one of them. The core of social media is related to digital technologies, content, and interactions from users (Kaplan and Haenlein 2010). Howard and Parks (2012) states that social media is also related to the interaction through direct messengers or platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Hence, the notion of social media can be defined as a digital platform where users can put their content and interact with other users directly through messengers or through the features of the contents. In this case, Quora has grown quite fast as the digital media for sharing and questioning any discussion topic. It was claimed by Approved (2023), *"Since its launch, Quora has grown to become one of the largest question-and-answer websites, where users can ask questions, answer queries, and engage in discussions on various topics."* Even further, social and mass media play significant roles in people's lives. As proposed by Turska-Kawa (2011), media is utilized by society to build social identities.

The growth of digital platforms is getting massive in line with the unity of global society through digital connections. These digital connections then lead to the beginning of digital discourses that continue to become bigger by the time. Unfortunately, the massive growth of digital technology in terms of digital platforms goes along with the increase of depressed society as reflected from depression-related discourses in digital platforms and social media. In this case, the author took Quora as an example of digital platforms to be analyzed. From its website, it is introduced that the core of Quora is as follows:

"Quora's mission is to share and grow the world's knowledge. Not all knowledge can be written down, but much of that which can be, still isn't. It remains in people's heads or only accessible if you know the right people. We want to connect the people who have knowledge

to the people who need it, to bring together people with different perspectives so they can understand each other better, and to empower everyone to share their knowledge for the benefit of the rest of the world.” (Quora 2010)

Quora was built in June 2009 and primarily started on June 21, 2010. It offers a digital space for questioning, telling stories, and knowing any world's phenomenon for all people worldwide, meaning that those using Quora belong to a digital society. As with the notion of digital platforms, interactions happening in Quora cannot be separated from digital society and its discourse.

This research worked on a pragmatic framework to reveal how the language was used across various contexts, influenced by external factors: speaker, context, listeners' inference and expression. Pragmatics also reveal the human ability to figure out messages and information from utterances that are not explicitly stated (Horn and Ward 2004). Under the pragmatic framework, the analysis in this research deployed the theory of speech acts, concerning that linguistic forms are not just used to express something (locutionary act). Furthermore, they are used for the purpose of doing something (illocutionary act) and influencing the actions of others (perlocutionary act) (Searle 1969). Straightforward, this research focuses on six functions of illocutions (speech acts) according to Parker and Riley (2009).

The first type is representative which is a speech act to describe states of affairs. The second type of speech act is directive which is a speech act get the speech partners to do or not to do something. Questioning is the third type of speech acts which is functioning to get any information from speech partners. The fourth speech acts type is commissive which is a speech act to commit the speaker to do something. Further, expressive is the fifth type of speech act, functioning to express psychological, mental, and emotional states. Finally, the sixth type of speech act is declarative, which is a speech act to declare the status change the entity's status or positions.

Several other linguists, Searle (1976) and Austin (1975) have also drawn these six categories. Then the six functions of speech acts are divided into four based on their internal categories, namely the way the action is expressed, and the relationship between meaning utterance with the speaker's meaning or the meaning intended by the speaker (Wijana 2021). The first strategy is related to explicitness. A speech act is considered explicit when it uses performative verbs and it is implicit when it is a constative text, having no performative verb. The second one is related to directness. A speech acts belongs to a direct one when types of text mood match the function, and it is an indirect speech act when the types of text mood deviate the function. Further, the third strategy is about literalness. A speech act is literal when the speaker's intention has the same meaning as the one contained by the linguistic expression, and it is non-literal when the speaker's intention is contradictory with the meaning of linguistic elements. The last speech acts strategy is about expressed-implicit. It is expressed when the speaker's intention is expressed by linguistic elements and vice versa.

Further, as the topic being investigated was depression, this section provides an explanation about it. Depression is a psychological matter that is so much related to emotion, mood, and affection. Depression symptoms can be considered as a mood or affection disorder. Furthermore, the symptoms of depression can be outlined as 1) depressed mood, 2) loss of interest and pleasure, 3) reduced energy or fatigability (Paykel 2008). Depression is closely related to emotion as both are also parts of psychology. Currently, psychological constructionists disclose that there is interconnectivity between language and emotion in the context of empiric experiences and scientific assessments (Lindquist, MacCormack, and Shablack 2015). In regard to social media, Radovic et al. (2017) has outlined the positive and negative social media uses caused by different moods. The positive use of social media covers positive content for the purposes of entertainment, humor, content creation, tourism, and the likes. On the contrary, the negative use of social media includes sharing risky behaviors, cyberbullying, and making self-denigrating comparisons with others. In short, both positive and negative uses of social media are significantly related to the language -utterances- used, in addition to the graphic display or illustration. As the symptoms have been outlined, it is possible to state that depression is a psychological matter reflected in people's emotions, mood, and affection which lack interest in their surroundings due to the lack of energy.

The growth of social media also reflects how humanity's discourses are communicated digitally. Digital discourse in terms of involving most up-to-date technologies covers user interaction in instant messengers, web-blogs, photo or graphic contents, handphones, social network websites, gaming platforms, and video contents (Thurlow and Mroczek 2011). Hence, in short, it can be said that what can be read on Quora in this case is seen as digital discourse. Digital discourse emphasizes the perspective of sociolinguistics in terms of language use in digital technologies. Digital technology has

successfully brought new spaces, realities and ways of life, influencing the change of how people perceive and recognize the world surrounding (Zhang, Song, and Liu 2024). Digital discourse is defined as “a world of research that attends primarily to linguistic, sociolinguistic and discursive phenomena in new/social media” by Thurlow (2017). In addition, Hafner (2018) claims, “Digital discourses, that is, texts and interactions in digitally mediated contexts, provide an additional site for applied linguistics research, presenting opportunities and challenges.”

Getting a bit further, the research problem in this article arises because despite sharing the growth of sciences and technologies, Quora is also commonly used for sharing any depression topics, particularly from those suspected. There are quite a huge number of discourses and utterances related to depression found in Quora. This is considered significant because the growth of technologies should come along with the growth of emotional well-being and in fact, it seems it doesn't. The increase of depression discourses in Quora can be seen as a language phenomenon. In this case, the author investigated the language phenomenon through pragmatic sense or speech acts. There have been studies investigating this kind of language phenomenon. However, the huge increase of depression discourses in digital platforms and media is another case that matters. Hence, this research can complete the previous research to advance more comprehensive perspectives of the use of language, digital media, and depression. To achieve the goal, this research aimed at seeking the types or functions of speech acts conveyed in Quora's depression topic, investigating the speech acts strategies conveyed in Quora's depression discourses, and revealing the digital society's portrayal toward the growing depression issues in Quora platform.

METHODS

The data were collected from the Quora digital platform on March 20, 2024, at 4:45 PM. As this research concerned depression discourse in Quora, the author then selected the topic of depression among other available topics to find the utterances data. After screening the topic, the author found 67 most recent utterances in the selected topic of depression. All the newest posted data found on that date in Quora depression topic were copied and pasted to the spreadsheet as the raw data. The author copied and pasted those data text from the depression topic in Quora platform. The author then shortlisted the data into the top twenty utterances in Quora's depression topic. The 20 data were representatively conveyed by varied accounts from personal accounts, doctors, scientists, psychologists, and other health experts sharing discourses and messages about depression. Thus, the shortlisted data were able to portray digital society's responses to the growing issues of depression.

The twenties utterances were then used as research data to be analyzed using the theory of speech acts to reveal the functions and strategies. As mentioned in the introduction, the speech acts functions were identified using the classification proposed by Parker and Riley (2009) and the strategies were examined using the speech acts strategies formulated by Wijana (2021). The functions were identified to reveal the intended meaning or illocutionary forces driving the speakers conveying their utterances. There were six functions proposed by Parker and Riley that were representative, directive, questioning, commissive, expressive, and declarative speech acts. Meanwhile the strategies in conveying speech acts referred to Wijana (2021) were related to explicitness, directness, literalness, and expressed-implied strategies.

The data were then analyzed under the functions and strategy of the speech acts. The criteria to justify the speech acts functions were stated as follows. The representative function where a speech described states of affairs, the directive types where a speech act instruct others to do or not to do something, the questioning type where speakers intended to obtain any information from others, the commissive type where a speech act committed the speaker to do something, the expressive type where speakers showed psychological, mental, and emotional states, and the declarative type where a speech act declared any status change. Moreover, the analysis also deployed the speech acts strategies covering the criteria as follows. Explicitness is where a speech act uses performative verbs, and it is implicit when it is a constative text. Directness is where text mood matches the function, and it is an indirect speech act when the types of text mood deviate the function. Literalness is where the speaker's intention conforms to the linguistic expression, and it is non-literal when the speaker's intention is contradictory with the meaning of linguistic elements. Finally, expressed-implied strategy is where the speaker's intention is expressed by linguistic elements or not.

RESULTS

As addressed in the conceptual framework, the speech acts are divided into six categories. In this case, from the 67 utterances as the collected data, the author found that they only belong to three speech act functions which are questioning, expressive, and directive (see Table 1). The depression topic in Quora was used as the context for all the interactions discussing depression.

Table 1. Speech Acts Functions Conveyed in Quora Depression Topic

Representative	Directive	Questioning	Commissive	Expressive	Declarative
0	1	52	0	14	0
0%	2%	79%	0%	21%	0%

The statistic showed by table 1 implied that people in Quora digital platform tended to seek more information about depression. It could be an indication that they were feeling any symptom of depression or the commonly found depression in people surrounding people. The expressive speech acts could also indicate that people tend to express and share their psychological and mental states of affairs in digital media. It was also a rare phenomenon as they preferred alternate society better than the real one. Meanwhile, the only directive speech act implied that people were careful to give instructions on what to do as the depression backgrounds were hugely varied among people that needed distinct responses. For even further detail, the analysis is then provided for each data respectively.

Questioning Speech Acts

Data 1

"What is the correlation between severe acne and depression? Why do some people with severe acne experience depression while others do not?"

The utterances above consist of two interrogative sentences. The speaker wanted to get informed whether severe acne could trigger any depression. If it was seen from a structural perspective, there was nothing to dig deeper from the utterances. However, if it was seen through pragmatics, there would be several possible intentions from the speakers. The speaker was possibly depressed due to suffering from acne and wanted to know about severe acne and depression. In addition, the speaker might have a friend suffering from acne, and s/he got depressed. The speaker wanted to help by asking the question to get background knowledge.

Moreover, the strategies used in the speech act were firstly, explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, secondly direct as the speaker needed to get informed through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, thirdly literal, as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite and lastly implied, as the author saw, a high possibility that the speaker was experiencing depression due to suffering from acne but did not admit it openly.

Data 2

"Is there a correlation between owning a dog and improved mental health, specifically in regard to anxiety, depression, and PTSD?"

The speaker wanted to collect information on whether a dog could heal depression. Further, the speaker possibly had a mental issue and thought a dog could be a therapy. The strategies used in the speech act were explicit, as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct, as the speaker needed to get informed through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal, as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and implied, as the speaker actually wanted to have a dog as a treatment for mental issues but did not admit it openly.

Data 3

"Do you agree with Elon Musk that ketamine is "a better option" for treating depression than other antidepressants?"

The interrogative sentence above was uttered by its speaker to get some information about the use of ketamine which was considered better than other drugs. The utterance also offers a possibility that the speaker was experiencing depression and seeking a curing medication.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit, as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct, as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal, as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and implied, as the speaker possibly wanted to have ketamine for treating the experienced depression and needed to make sure how ketamine was compared to other antidepressants but did not admit it openly.

Data 4

"Do people with psychological problems like depression or anxiety always know it?"

The speaker intended to get some information about how depression survivors saw themselves. There was a possibility that the speaker noticed depression symptoms and was seeking people's advice. The strategies used in the speech act were explicit, as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct, as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal, as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and implied, as the speaker was possibly experiencing a depression symptom and seeking people's advice but did not admit it openly.

Data 5

"In your experience, how long did it take for bupropion (Wellbutrin) to help your depression? I know the expectations, but it seems to work much sooner for me. Is it the same for others?"

The speaker wanted to collect information on how fast bupropion (Wellbutrin) cures in others' depression cases. Further, the speaker also expressed that the depression s/he was experiencing was getting better due to the use of bupropion (Wellbutrin).

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit, as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, expressed as the speaker disclosed that the experienced depression was getting better due to the use of bupropion (Wellbutrin). The use of first-person singular pronouns "I" also indicated that the speaker used the straightforward strategy.

Data 6

"What are effective methods for overcoming trauma caused by depression, anxiety, and panic attacks? How long does it typically take for someone with these mental illnesses to recover from trauma?"

The speaker wanted to collect information about effective methods for depression care and curing and the duration needed to totally recover. Another possibility was that the speaker was seeking the most efficient method for curing her/his own depression.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite and implied as the speaker was possibly suffering a trauma due to past mental issues and seeking people's advice about the most effective and efficient method to cure but did not admit it openly.

Data 7

"What are the signs of depression in cats when they are left alone for long periods of time? How can you improve their mood and make them happy again?"

This data was not about human mental health but about cats. The speaker was seeking information on how cats could be depressed and how to cure cat depression. Possibly, the speaker's cat was showing depression symptoms, and the speaker needed some advice to heal the cat's depression.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not

mean the opposite, and implied, as the speaker perhaps told that his/her cats were depressed and needed treatments but did not admit it openly.

Data 8

"Is it possible to have two different types of mental disorders at the same time, even if they are very different from each other (such as depression and anxiety)?"

The speaker was asking about the possibility of experiencing two different kinds of mental disorders at the same time. Due to the context of the utterance being discussed in Quora, there was still a chance that the speaker felt to have mental disorders.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and implied as there was a chance that the speaker felt to have symptoms of the two kinds of mental disorders but did not admit it openly.

Data 9

"How effective is Cognitive Behavioral therapy (CBT) for treating anxiety and depression in Ontario?"

The speaker was asking specifically about the effectiveness of CBT in anxiety and depression treatment in Ontario. In another way, the speaker was perhaps undertaking CBT treatment and wanted to make sure by asking other's opinions.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and implied as there was a chance that the speaker felt to have symptoms of the two kinds of mental disorders but did not admit it openly.

Data 10

"What are the symptoms of derealization, and depersonalization caused by anxiety and depression? Can you provide some examples to help understand these conditions better?"

The speaker wanted to get a deep and comprehensive understanding about derealization, and depersonalization caused by anxiety and depression. Again, the speaker probably was thinking of having those symptoms and wanted to get comprehensive information for self-diagnosis.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker asked for information through the basic mode of interrogative sentence, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and implied as there was a possibility that the speaker was having those symptoms and wanted to get comprehensive information about derealization and depersonalization caused by anxiety and depression for self-diagnosis. but did not admit it openly.

Data 11

"I started Prozac today. What should I be most worried about (as in side effects)?"

Data 11 was included in the questioning speech act because the speaker wanted to get information about the Prozac side effects in curing mental issues. The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker asked for information about Prozac in an interrogative sentence, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed as the speaker openly revealed her/his intention.

Expressive Speech Act

Data 12

"I have lost all hope in life feeling really miserable. I am hopeless from Allah as well. I think life is nothing but a miserable affair and there is no happiness for me in afterlife. What should I do?"

The speaker was desperately expressing emotional and psychological conditions. *Miserable, hopeless, life is nothing, and no happiness* indicated that the speaker was experiencing mental problems. Then, *"What should I do?"* indicated that the speaker needed some help. Hence, the speaker conveyed the depression implicitly.

The strategies used in the speech act were implicit as the speaker did not use any performative verb or depression phrase in the utterance, direct as the speaker conveyed the text whose basic function conformed to declarative sentences, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed, as the speaker honestly disclosed that her/his mental state was not even good as s/he also lost the faith to the God. The first-person singular pronouns "I" also emphasized the use of the straightforward strategy.

Data 13

*"Everything **feels dark and so gloomy**, it's not depression or anxiety. No matter if it's a happy or sad occasion, I constantly **feel a darkness over me**, everything just **seems fake** like I'm in a movie. What's happening to me?"*

The utterance above expressed the speaker's feelings that were dark, gloomy, and fake. The speaker denied experiencing depression, but s/he insisted on expressing dark and gloomy feelings. "What's happening to me?" was uttered to make sure that the speaker was actually fine and that the gloomy feeling was only eventual.

The strategies used in the speech act were implicit as the speaker did not convey depression explicitly in the utterance through linguistic expression, direct as the speaker straightly revealed a mental condition through the basic function of declarative sentences, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed, as the speaker truthfully asserted that s/he was not mentally fine because every time was about darkness and gloom. In the end, it seemed that the speaker also needed some help.

Data 14

*"I need to exercise, but **I'm too lazy or depressed** to actually do it. How do I fix this?"*

This belongs to the expressive speech act because the speaker showed the feeling of being so lazy and depressed that the speaker was unwilling to get some exercise. Then, the speaker sought some advice to overcome the situation.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker straightly revealed a mental condition through the basic function of declarative sentences, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed as the speaker truthfully told that s/he wanted to exercise but his/her mental state was not fine.

Data 15

*"I visited Kamakhya Temple last week. I fell down twice inside the temple on two different days consecutively. Since I've come home, **my mood has been disturbed, restless, and depressed**. What should I do?"*

The speaker expressed the unpleasant feeling because the mood has been disturbed, restless, and depressed after experiencing fall-down twice in the previous week. Further, "What should I do?" implied that the speaker needed some help.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker straightly revealed a mental condition through the basic function of declarative sentences, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed, as the speaker frankly admitted that her/his mood has been disturbed, restless, and depressed.

Data 16

"Why do I continue to have awful grades despite excelling in all topics on all tests? Is it because of depression?"

The utterance is an expressive speech act because the speaker was expressing disappointment due to bad results in tests s/he just undertook. The speaker also wanted to know whether s/he was mentally fine or not from the utterance "Is it because of depression?".

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, indirect as the speaker interrogative sentences to inform that s/he was not mentally fine, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the

opposite, and expressed, as the speaker frankly admitted that her/his mood has been disturbed, restless, and depressed.

Data 17

"I have lost all the hope in Allah and I am extremely depressed. What can I do to regain my trust in Allah?"

The depression that the speaker had been experiencing was ultimate because the speaker had no faith anymore toward the Lord. However, in the end, the speaker implied willing to get out of the depression and asked for some help through the utterance *"What can I do to regain my trust in Allah?"*

The strategies used in the speech act were, explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, direct as the speaker straightforwardly claimed a mental condition through the basic function of declarative sentences, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed as the speaker honestly disclosed that her/his mental state was not even good as s/he also lost hopes in God.

Data 18

"I feel so sad right now, I really want to cry. But in fact, I can't. So what should I do?"

The data above belongs to the expressive speech act because the speaker expressed the feeling of sadness. The speaker was seeking some help through the utterance *"So what should I do?"*. In other words, the speaker in this case conveyed the depression.

The strategies used in the speech act were implicit as the speaker did not use any performative verb or depression phrase in the utterance, direct as the speaker conveyed the text whose basic function conformed to declarative sentences, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed as the speaker truthfully proclaimed that his/her mental state was not even fine and desperately wanted to cry although in fact, s/he couldn't.

Data 19

"I'm about to do Ketamine treatment for anxiety and depression and had a very good first conversation with my doc. I'm still a bit anxious but also looking forward to getting relief. What's your experience with this treatment?"

This data belongs to the expressive speech act. Although data 19 contains depression messages, the feeling that the speaker tried to express was positive. *"I'm still a bit anxious but also looking forward to getting relief."* was used by the speaker to express that s/he was still in an anxiety but optimistic to get through the anxiety immediately. In other words, the speaker in this case conveyed the depression.

The strategies used in the speech act were implicit as the speaker did not use any performative verb or depression phrase in the utterance, direct as the speaker conveyed the text whose basic function conformed to declarative sentences, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed, as the speaker truthfully proclaimed that his/her mental state got even better due to the use of ketamine treatment.

Directive Speech Act

Data 20

"How does Krishna help me when I am suffering from health issues? I feel very depressed about it but then I remember that I have Krishna with me."

The utterance belongs to the directive speech act because it was used by the speaker who wanted to tell people to get into their God respectively when trapped in a bad moment conveyed through the clause *'I remember that I have Krishna with me'*. The speaker proclaimed that going back to the Lord was the best and simplest treatment for depression.

The strategies used in the speech act were explicit as the speaker used performative verbs in the utterance, indirect as the speaker used an interrogative sentence to explain that God (Krishna) had saved him/her from the depression, literal as the speaker's intention went along with the utterance structural units and did not mean the opposite, and expressed as the speaker wanted to tell people to get into their God respectively when trapped in a bad moment.

After analyzing the research data, it was inferred that the theory of speech acts under the pragmatic study was helpful in identifying digital humanity indicated by the speech acts functions the people conveyed about depression in Quora and how they communicate the speech acts in terms of the strategies to come to the intended meaning of illocutionary forces. Hence the questions delivered within this research were successfully responded.

DISCUSSION

This discussion section provides a reflection of digital society toward the growing depression issues. Based on the data analysis, it can be inferred that the depressing topic in Quora provides a humanity value across digital platforms. Humanity is not again restricted to the context of conventional reality but also virtual reality where people through social media interact with various issues. In this case, through the speech acts analysis, it concludes that people with mental issues, specifically depression, tend to show support and care over social media. The theory of speech act functions or types proposed by Parker and Riley (2009) was helpful in spotlighting the digital society portrayal in Quora platform. For example, through questioning speech acts type, they tried to obtain some information generally about how to deal with depression or other mental disorders. In return, other people responded to the questions by delivering directive speech acts instructing people to do several things as efforts to cope with depression. Further, the most important thing in this case is that people seem to have no pressure to express their mental or psychological state of affairs through social media platforms by delivering varied expressive speech acts type. It is proof that digital humanity is alive across social media platforms.

Further, the speech act strategies formulated by Wijana (2021) were also central in depicting the digital society's perspective and response to the growing depression issues, particularly in Quora platform. The strategies of speech acts conveyed in Quora also reflected humanity values in social media platforms. For example, there was a group that seemed to express their psychological feelings explicitly and directly while another group preferred to convey implicitly and indirectly. Although both groups tend to be open in sharing and expressing their mental condition or psychological states in social media platforms, the 'explicit' group can be interpreted to have deeper and heavier mental issues rather than the 'implicit' group had, although it needs further interdisciplinary research comprehensively. Compared to previous research, this research offers an updated perspective on the use of speech acts theories to reveal social phenomena and society's psychological states of affairs in the digital world. Suppose the speech acts theories in the previous studies only tended to show the depression phenomenon in digital social media descriptively. In that case, this research offers a deeper investigation of the depression phenomenon in digital platforms by providing the background, the intention, and the humanity values portrayed by the phenomenon.

Moreover, digital society in the context of Quora's depression topic showed a great humanity as they want to share any information and knowledge about depression to others unconditionally. "Sharing is caring" in this case does really works. They help each other for the sake of global mental health awareness. It is interesting to see how they exchange information with others through language use representing their mindset which is not judgmental.

CONCLUSION

In the end of this article, this research emphasizes the digital society portrayal in responding to depression issues in Quora platform, depicted by the deployment of speech acts theories about the functions and the strategies. In terms of the functions or types, the questioning type was the most found, followed by the expressive and directive types (see Table 1). The questioning type indicates that people need more and deeper information about depression as the depression seemingly increases around them. The expressive speech acts implied that people tended to safely express their psychological and mental states on social media rather than in reality while the directive type indicated that people were willing to help and support each other in digital world. The interactions flew smoothly among the speakers involved although they did not personally know each other. They also mostly used explicit strategy to state what their intentions although varied in either direct or indirect.

This phenomena of the use of language and digital media is interesting to get into deeper because people apparently tend to openly share with unknown people virtually. Do they have no

“real” friends or perhaps they feel freer to express their emotional state through “written” language? Quora, in this case, provides a safe space for the people to share anything about depression through the speech acts or the illocutionary forces they intended to achieve. Despite sharing in reality, they tended to feel safe as they did not get any stigma or social judgments as they could go anonymous. In practice, linguists, psychologists, and IT engineers could work hand in hand to provide more spaces for discussions about depression or other mental illnesses. Quora and other digital social media platforms could facilitate discussions about depression and other mental illnesses as people seem safe to share everything about their mental issues without pressure, stigma, or at least direct judgments. At last, the authors bet there will be increasing interest in language use, digital society, and depression.

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